

SANDY URBAN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1971

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

AND

SURVEYOR AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

P. E. MILLER, M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971

To the

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SANDY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1971.

The Vital Statistics section of the Report shows that the Still-birth and Infant Mortality Rates are higher than those for England and Wales and the Administrative County. The Rates are derived, however, from small figures and this fact occasionally results in wide departures from national averages. Thus, in 1970 there were no stillbirths and the rate was nil while that for England and Wales was 12. Happily there has not been a maternal death in Sandy for a long time but if there had been only one in 1971, the Maternal Mortality Rate would have been about 9; that for the Administrative County with two such deaths was 0.35 only. It remains to be said that however small the figures, the causes of the deaths leading to them are always investigated.

The Causes of Death table shows that of the 48 deaths notified, 34 were in respect of persons sixty-five years of age and over. 28 of the total deaths were due to heart and circulatory diseases, 10 to cancer, including three cases of cancer of the lung, all males.

Reorganisation of the National Health Service and Local Government is planned to take place on 1st April, 1974. It may be appropriate, therefore, to include in this Introduction one or two points which arise.

On the 1st April, 1974 there will be for the whole of geographical Bedfordshire: (a) one County Council, and in its area there will be a number of District Councils, and (b) one Area Health Authority, which will be operationally responsible for all the National Health Services now administered by the County Council, the Executive Council and the three Hospital Management Committees in Bedfordshire.

As the very recently published White Paper points out, collaboration between the new County Council and the Area Health Authority will be essential. The former body will be responsible for the Education and Personal Social Services and the latter for the National Health Services and there is scope for much collaboration between them in the use of premises and staff. As an example, the Area Health Authority will have in its employment doctors, dental surgeons and nurses who can be made available for work in the Education and Personal Social Services.

To the

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE SANDY BRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1971.

The Vital Statistics section of the report shows that the birth and infant mortality rates are higher than those for England and Wales and the Administrative County. The rates are, however, from small figures and this fact occasionally results in wide departures from national averages. Thus, in 1970 there were no stillbirths and the rate was nil while that for England and Wales was 12. Infants there has not been a maternal death in Sandy for a long time but it there has been only one in 1971, the Maternal Mortality Rate would have been about 2; that for the Administrative County with two such deaths was 0.55 only. It remains to be said that however small the figures, the causes of the deaths leading to them are always investigated.

The Causes of Death table shows that of the 48 deaths notified, 34 were in respect of persons sixty-five years of age and over, 98 of the total deaths were due to heart and circulatory diseases, 10 to cancer, including three cases of cancer of the lung, all males.

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As the very recently published White Paper points out, a laboratory between the new County Council and the Area Health Authority will be essential. The former body will be responsible for the financial and Personnel Social Services and the latter for the National Health Service and there is scope for much collaboration between them in the use of premises and staff. As an example, the Area Health Authority will have in its employment doctors, dental surgeons and nurses who can be made available for work in the education and Personal Social Services.

Collaboration would also be valuable between the Area Health Authority and the District Councils, and one way in which it could express itself would be for the District Councils to appoint as medical advisers ("proper officers") doctors employed as Community Physicians by the Area Health Authority at Hospital District level. The experience of most Medical Officers of Health of County Districts who are also engaged in County Council work, is that such an appointment would be most likely to provide the best services for the residents of the area.

In the text of the report I have mentioned some of the services provided by the County Council as Local Health Authority. All these have a beneficial influence on the health of people and, in that respect, can be placed alongside the duties of County Districts in regard to the environment. In fact, joint action by officers of County Council and District Council is often necessary, and I acknowledge with gratitude the help given by the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff in matters of mutual concern.

In conclusion, I am grateful to the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me and to members of the staff for their ready co-operation. In particular, I thank Mr. P. E. Miller, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.C.V. BROTHWOOD

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	4,362
Registrar General's Estimate of Home Population	5,380
Estimated number of inhabited houses at the end of 1971	1,980
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1971	£217,832
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)	£ 2,010

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	49	51	100
Illegitimate	2	4	6
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>51</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>106</u>

Crude birth rate per 1000 home population	19.7
Adjusted birth rate per 1000 home population	19.7
Birth rate for England and Wales	16.0

Still Births

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still birth rate per 1000 home population	..	..	.. .. 19.0
Still birth rate for England and Wales	..	..	.. .. 12.0

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All Causes	29	19	48
Crude death rate per 1000 home population	8.9
Area comparability factor	1.19
Adjusted death rate per 1000 home population	10.6
Death rate for England and Wales	11.6

Maternal Mortality - Nil

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Death of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate.. .. .	-	-	-
Rate for all infants per 1000 live births			19.0
Rate for England and Wales			18.0
Peri-natal mortality rate			37.0
Rate for England and Wales			22.0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

STATISTICAL TABLE 1962 - 1971

Year	Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate	
	Sandy U. D.	England and Wales	Sandy U. D.	England and Wales	Sandy U. D.	England and Wales
1962	10.9	11.9	33.3	21.4	16.4	18.0
1963	12.3	12.2	-	20.9	19.6	18.2
1964	10.8	11.3	-	20.0	14.9	18.4
1965	9.7	11.5	23.5	19.0	19.6	18.1
1966	8.6	11.7	-	19.0	18.4	17.7
1967	10.42	11.2	-	18.3	16.56	17.2
1968	11.9	11.9	-	18.0	18.9	16.9
1969	12.3	11.9	20.0	18.0	18.5	16.3
1970	10.7	11.7	33.0	18.0	21.7	16.0
1971	10.6	11.6	19.0	18.0	19.7	16.0

Death of Infants under one year of age

	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths	5	5	10
Infants	-	-	-
Rate for all infants per 1000 live births	19.0	19.0	19.0
Rate for England and Wales	18.0	18.0	18.0
Per-natal mortality rate	37.0	37.0	37.0
Rate for England and Wales	22.0	22.0	22.0

STATISTICAL TABLE 1962 - 1971
CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANCY

Year	Death Rate		Infant Mortality rate		Birth Rate	
	England and Wales	U. D.	England and Wales	U. D.	England and Wales	U. D.
1962	11.9	10.9	21.4	16.4	18.0	18.0
1963	12.2	12.3	-	19.6	18.2	18.2
1964	11.3	10.8	-	19.9	18.4	18.4
1965	11.2	9.7	23.2	19.6	18.1	18.1
1966	11.7	8.6	-	18.4	17.7	17.7
1967	11.2	10.42	-	16.36	17.2	17.2
1968	11.9	11.9	-	18.9	16.9	16.9
1969	11.9	12.3	20.0	18.2	16.3	16.3
1970	11.7	10.9	22.0	21.7	16.0	16.0
1971	11.6	10.6	19.0	19.7	16.0	16.0

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows causes of death as given in the Registrar General's Statistics.

Causes of Death	Under 15 years		15 - 64		65 and over		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Leukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	1	1	8	7	9	8
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	2
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1	-	1	-	3	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	4	-	6	4	19	15	29	19

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Bedfordshire County Council provides:

- (a) through its Health Committee the following services, amongst others - Health Centres, Care of Mothers and Young Children, Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery, Ambulance, Immunisation against Infectious Diseases;
- (b) through its Education Committee, a School Health Service;
- (c) through its Social Services Committee, personal social services.

The Bedfordshire and Luton Executive Council provides the Family Practitioner Services.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provides consultant and hospital services.

The North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provides consultant and hospital services.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Much is achieved in the prevention of infectious disease by immunisation. Diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are dealt with in the first year of life and measles in the second. Necessary reinforcement doses are given at about five years of age.

Vaccination against rubella is offered as a routine to girls reaching their twelfth year and, arrangements are being made, with prescribed safeguards, for the vaccination of women of child-bearing age.

B.C.G. vaccination is offered, where appropriate, to children at the age of thirteen years.

There are also certain activities of officers of the Public Health Department which are important in the prevention and control of infectious disease. They are most readily recognisable in outbreaks of vomiting and diarrhoea and the surveillance of contacts returning from abroad but there is a considerable amount of less spectacular but important routine work in connection with food hygiene and housing.

Table (a), which follows, shows that of the 65 notifications received 64 were in respect of measles. The number is part of the large increase which occurred throughout the Administrative County, in which no less than 2,282 of the 2,780 notifications received were of measles. It can reasonably be hoped, however, that the increasing number of vaccinations taking place against measles - 38 per cent of the children born in the year 1970 were vaccinated - will lead to a significant reduction in the number of notifications.

Once again there were no cases of diphtheria and poliomyelitis, and there were no cases of food poisoning.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(a)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diseases	Notification by age groups					Total Cases Notified
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	Over 15	
Measles	2	36	24	2	-	64
Whooping Cough	1	-	-		-	1

(b)

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths recorded since 1962.

Year	New Cases			Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	Total
	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
1962	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1965	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1966	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1967	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1968	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1969	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
1970	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed in Biggleswade Railway Station Yard every Tuesday morning between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 am.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Bedfordshire Water Board. It is pumped from Greensand to the works at Dunton and has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

Samples are taken by the Water Board at frequent intervals for bacteriological and chemical examination and whilst results of the bacteriological examinations are not available, the following reports are typical of the samples taken for chemical examination. These indicate that it is of a high standard of organic purity.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Turbidity (A.T.U.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Colour (Hazen Units)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.32
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per ml at 20° C)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	495
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.16
Chloride as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	204
Non-Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Calcium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	191
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Sulphate as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.04
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Potassium as K	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.01
Flouride as F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.13
Silica as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Phosphate as PO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.05
Lead as Pb	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.01
Copper as Cu	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.10
Zinc as Zn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.14
Temperature °C	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND SURVEYOR
FOR THE YEAR 1971

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Fourth Annual Report to the Council on the work carried out by the department during 1971.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The town is sewered all along the main streets and roads. Swaden, Stratford Road, parts of Tempsford Road, Beeston Green and Seddington are not sewered.

One hundred and twenty-two houses have septic tank drainage systems and thirteen houses have pail closets. All houses with septic tanks are allowed one free emptying per year and pails are collected twice weekly.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Ivel Internal Drainage Board undertakes the cleaning of all streams.

CONVERSIONS FROM PAILS TO WATER CLOSETS

Total number of conversions since 1945..... 164

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour but a tender has been accepted for refuse collection to be carried out by contract.

The paper sack method of collection was extended to a further 211 properties during the year, 58% of the properties are now served by this method. All new developments are required to provide for this method of collection and it is hoped that eventually the system will be extended to cover the whole town.

Bulky items of household refuse are removed on request, without charge, and the amount collected continues to increase as more people avail themselves of this service. Householders are also allowed to deposit refuse in the Council's tip without charge.

Two abandoned vehicles were removed during the year.

Street gullies are emptied at approximately 15 week intervals by the Bedfordshire County Council on a rechargeable basis. This has worked satisfactorily.

Street scavenging is carried out by direct labour.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year:-

Total number of visits made	98,445
Ashbins emptied	123,056
Cesspools emptied.	47
Pail closets emptied	1,210
Loads of refuse and night soil removed	653

NUMBER OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing Defects	62
Miscellaneous	116
Council house repairs	866
Routine inspections, including visits to new buildings..	762
Visits to work in progress	266
Public Health Acts	102

OFFENSIVE TRADE

An appeal against the Council's refusal to renew the consent for the carrying on of an offensive trade within the district was dismissed by the Magistrates' Court. A serious nuisance from smell still arises from these premises.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART I OF THE ACT

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	28	-	-
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total	32	28	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Nature of Work (1)	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel - making etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-

TOWN DEVELOPMENT

Once again a considerable amount of your officer's time was taken up by the Town Development Scheme.

The main industrial road was completed and the first stage of the housing development is in progress.

Eight unit factories were completed during the year.

I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and the staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

P. E. MILLER

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are no registered premises in the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

UNFIT FOOD

Voluntary surrender of the undermentioned foodstuffs found unfit has been made as follows:-

140 lb. Pork
50 lb. Beef
55 Packets Mousse
112 Packets Ice Cream
218 Packets of various frozen foods

ICE CREAM

Fifteen premises are registered for sale of ice cream.

POULTRY INSPECTIONS

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960

No. of premises:-

Greengrocers	2
Grocers	8
Fishmongers	2
Bakers and Confectioners	1
Butchers	3
Cafe and Catering Establishments	8

Regular inspections of all premises have been carried out during the year and informal action has resulted in several improvements being made.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

No. of premises registered:-

Offices	9
Retail Shops	25
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	3
Catering establishments	
open to public	4
Fuel Storage Depots	1

Regular inspections have been made during the year and no serious contraventions of the Act were found.

HOUSING ACTS

Qualification certificates in respect of four properties were issued during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED

Discretionary	..	..	..	..	7
Standard	..	..	..	..	11

RODENT CONTROL

This work is carried out by contract and the service is working very satisfactorily.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Sewage Disposal Works and Pumping Stations have been maintained in a satisfactory condition although considerable difficulty was experienced at the beginning of the year due to the electricity cuts.

All samples of effluent throughout the year have been satisfactory and well within the limits required by the River Board.

SUMMARY OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMED

1963	-	19,479	units
1964		20,572	"
1965		22,402	"
1966		29,812	"
1967		32,958	"
1968		39,183	"
1969		47,890	"
1970		109,370	"
1971		392,705	"

RAINFALL

	Inches
1963	18.73
1964	15.39
1965	24.93
1966	25.54
1967	20.75
1968	21.96
1969	21.48
1970	20.94
1971	21.375

RAINFALL 1972

Month	Total	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours		No. of days with	
		Inches	Date	.01 or over	.04 or over
January	3.05	.59	23	5	14
February	.46	.19	17	3	3
March	1.55	.54	14	4	8
April	1.24	.59	24	2	4
May	1.56	.28	7	1	10
June	2.89	.72	18	4	8
July	.89	.31	26	3	4
August	3.25	.90	3	7	12
September	.42	.15	27	1	4
October	2.67	.70	19	-	8
November	2.42	.56	20	5	8
December	.975	.28	19	4	5
Totals	21.375			39	88

COUNCIL HOUSES PAINTED 1971

16 flats.....£152

84 houses.....£1449

NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE COUNCIL

Pre-war..... 223

Cemetery cottage... 1

Post-War..... 359

DWELLINGS ERECTED SINCE 1945

<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Private</u>
10 Prefabs	68 Bungalows
97 Bungalows	626 Houses
229 Houses	3 Flats
23 Flats	
<u>23</u> G.L.C. Houses	<u> </u>
<u>382</u>	<u>697</u>

PRIVATE DWELLINGS ERECTED

There were 158 private dwellings erected during the year.

PLANS SUBMITTED DURING THE YEAR

Outline development	27
Industrial development	9
Dwelling Houses	12
Additions, Alterations and extensions	77
Garages, sheds, verandahs, etc... ..	23
Advertisements	1
Coal Bays and weighbridge	2
Agricultural Buildings	5
Electricity overhead lines	5
Change of Use	5
Shops	1
Garden Centre	1
Offices.. .. .	1
Middle School	1
T.D. Residential and Ancillary Devel- opment	1

